THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) Under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, only an Indian national or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section (3) of the Companies Act, 1956 can be granted a prospecting licence or minig lease for exploration or mining of minerals including gold and diamonds. As such, under the existing scheme of the mining legislation, a foreign company is not allowed to undertake prospecting/mining operations.

(b) Does not arise.

Coal Consumption in Thermal Power Stations of GSEB

2847. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the annual consumption of coal in thermal power stations of Gujarat State Electricity Board, district-wise;

(b) the quantum of coal supplied to these power stations during the last three years till date;

(c) the shortage of coal supplied; and

(d) the steps taken to supply the required quantity of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) The annual consumption of coal in Thermal Power Stations of Gujarat State Electricity Board (GSEB) for the last three years is as under :—

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

(Data provisional)

Power Stations	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Wanakbori	5715	6030	7162
Gandhinagar	2406	3351	2950
Ukai	3444	3128	3112
Sikka	933	653	592
TOTAL	**12498**	**13162**	**13816**

(Source : Central Electricity Authority)

(b) The quantum of coal supplied to these Power Stations during the last three years from Coal India Limited Sources are as under :

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

(Data provisional)

Power Stations	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Wanakbori	6483	6042	7521
Gandhinagar	3018	3544	3661
Ukai	3822	3363	3137
Sikka	1101	306	718
Total	**14424**	**13255**	**15037**

(Source : Coal India Limited Report)

(c) and (d) There was no shortage in supplies of coal to GSEB. Besides, coal supplies to power houses are reviewed regularly by an Inter-ministerial committee, and appropriate action is taken to step up supplies, wherever, necessary.

Precious Stones in Western Orissa

2848. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware of the existence of precious and semi-precious stones in western Orissa;

(b) if so, the areas where these precious stones are available;

(c) the steps taken to prevent the smuggling of these stones;

(d) the efforts made for the proper exploration of these stones; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Precious and semi-precious stones are available in the following Gemstone belts of Orissa :—Jhilli-Magarmuhan-Naugaon in Angul/Dhenkanal district; Charbati-Rairakhol-Beldihi, Jujmara-Bagdhapa-Tabloi, Meghpal-Ranchipara in Sambalpur district; Budido-Palsama-Jharposi in Deogarh district; Bagdihi in Jarsuguda district; Ghuchepali-Antarla, Ghumsar-Delhi, Muribahal-